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Gales Participants

Welcome, and thank you for your support of the 2014 Gales Storm Gathering. We are really excited to bring you a stellar program this year in Munising and Piers Gorge. We are also looking forward to welcoming Jeff Allen from Sea Kayaking Cornwall back to the Midwest. This event exists because of you and we look forward to a great weekend.

Central Meeting Point

We have one central location where all meetings and meals will take place, Sydney's in Munising. The upstairs will be just for the Gales where we will eat have a few slide shows, and plan the day's sessions on the water.

400 Cedar St, Munising, MI 49862 (906) 387-4067

[Map Link to Sydney's in Munising](#)

Downwind Sports from Marquette will have gear available for sale to any of you who may have forgotten a few key items.

Meals

We will have three squares a day for you at Sydney's in Munising. You can pay on site for the meals you eat, or for all the meals for the weekend, the latter is highly recommended.

Breakfasts 7-8:30 am

We will have hot breakfasts at Sydney's with a variety of eggs, and pancakes etc, along with fruit and yogurt for those that prefer lighter fare.

Lunch to go

Sack lunches will be provided each day to pick up at breakfast. We will have vegetarian and omnivore sandwiches and snacks within.

Dinner -7-9 pm

We have some great options for you each evening for dinner. We carefully selected a few good vegetarian and omnivore options. Cash bar will be available but not included in meal price each evening.

How the Gales Storm Gathering Works

Many kayaking events run a set series of courses no matter what the conditions are, because it will be all flat water paddling.

The Gales works a little differently. Our aim is to introduce you to moving water skills at a level appropriate to the paddlers involved. Some years this means that we have to create challenges with limited conditions, (wind, waves, rocks) other years this means limiting your exposure to wind, waves and cold water to allow you to learn.

To allow us to best coach the participants and meet the goals of the event we have to work from a forecast, and as everyone knows, weather prediction is sometimes more art than science. This means we must be flexible on course signups.

Course signup takes place each evening at dinner based on the latest forecast. Our staff then assigns coaches based on the interest in a given topic and the forecast. This allows us to deliver the best experience possible each day.

A few notes on safety for the event

- Helmets are required for all courses. If you do not have a helmet Downwind Sports will have some for sale.
- Drysuits are highly recommended, and wetsuits a second option if they provide adequate thermal protection. Gales staff may make a discretionary decision based on your equipment to not allow you to participate.
- Bulkheads and full rescue rigging on sea kayaks is required. This means static perimeter deck lines and end toggles. Gales staff may elect at their discretion to not allow you to participate in a session if you do not have appropriate equipment.
- Gales staff will make calls on all on water decisions, go no go, and whether a session will continue.
- In order for a participant to leave a course that is in progress on the water at any venue, you must notify the lead coach and be escorted back to land.

Venues

Lake Superior Venue

We will be making as much use of Lake Superior as we can based on the central location of Munising. It works in a variety of wind conditions with a number of journey options that all make for both challenging paddling and beautiful scenery.

Miners Castle, Sand Point are two likely starting points. However if the wind is primarily out of the north east, or northwest, Grand Marais could be a great location.

Piers Gorge Venue Menominee River

The Menominee allows the Gales to essentially guarantee conditions and a challenge for all skill levels. The river is both beautiful and swift. Paddling the class II and III sections of Piers Gorge is a highlight of the event.

The river is located in Norway Michigan.

[Put in and take out locations on google maps](#)

Plastic Boats are strongly, strongly encouraged.

Schedule

Thursday

Participant Reception 7-9pm Sydney's

We are looking forward to seeing you @ 7pm for a reception at Sydney's Sponsored by the Power of Water.

At the reception you can meet all the instructors, your fellow participants and we will also be signing up for Friday morning courses based on Friday's forecast.

You can also pay for all your meals at the reception.

Friday

Breakfast 7-8:30 am

Lunches to go!

Lake Superior Courses 9:30 am End at 4:30 (but drive dependent if conditions arise to drive a bit to the put in).

Piers Gorge Courses Leave at 8 start at 10:00 end at 4:00 in Piers Gorge

Dinner 7-8:30 pm Sydney's + Cash Bar!

Course Signup

Jeff Allen Keynote Presentation 8:30 – 9:30 Sydney's

Saturday

Breakfast 7-8:30 am

Lunches to go!

Lake Superior Courses 9:30 am End at 4:30 (but drive dependent if conditions arise to drive a bit to the put in).

Piers Gorge Courses Leave at 8 start at 10:00 end at 4:00 in Piers Gorge

Dinner 7-8:30 pm Sydney's + Cash Bar!

After Dinner Games! 8:30 - ?

Sunday

Breakfast 7-8:30 am

Lunches to go!

Lake Superior Courses 9:30 am End at 1:00 (but drive dependent if conditions arise to drive a bit to the put in).

Piers Gorge Courses Leave at 8 start at 10:00 end at 2:00 in Piers Gorge

Questions or concerns with any of the information contained in this document may be directed to :

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Or call 269.245.1526

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